

MARVEL
COMICS

2099

APR '96 24

GHOST RIDER

2099



IN THE PATH OF THE...
PSYCLONE!



DIRECT EDITION

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STAN LEE PRESENTS

ROAD TO RUIN

WELCOME TO AN
UNNATURAL
DISASTER IN
PROGRESS...

EYESCRAM
FOR THE BABY
PTERODACTYL
MESSIAH!

TASTES
GREAT! LESS
FILLING!

IT'S
BREAKING
THROUGH!

WE
CAN'T
HOLD --

LEN
KAMINSKI
WORDS

ASHLEY
WOOD
PENCILS

JIM DALY
INKS

RICHARD
STARKINGS
COMICRAFT
LETTERING

CHRISTIE
SCHEELÉ
COLORS

JOEY CAVALIERI
EDITOR

MALIBU'S
HUES
SEPARATIONS

BOBBIE
CHASE
CHIEF

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THERE IS NO
SHELTER FROM
THIS STORM.

~ HANGMAN
ROPE GANGSTER
GOVERNMENT
LEADERS INTO
FRANKENSTEIN
LIVING DEATH
ETERNAL
SLAVERY!

WE'RE
DYING OUT
HERE!

AND
IT'S GETTING
BIGGER!

GIVE ME
BLACK, OR
GIVE ME GOOD,
OR **KILL
ME!**

HOLLYWOOD
MAKEOVERS
FOR BATTERED
WOMEN --

-- NEXT ON
GERALDO!

A SEETHING
MELTSTROM
OF UNBOUND
PSYCHIC PLASMA
HAS EMBRACED
TRANSVERSE
CITY, INSPIRING
MADNESS IN
ITS CITIZENS.

**SKA
NAAAA**

PSYCHOSIS RAGES
THROUGH THE
POPULATION LIKE
WILDFIRE -- EACH
NEW WIND THAT
SUCCUMBS FUELLING
THE FLAMES --

-- ADDING TO THE
STORM'S POWER, UNTIL
REALITY ITSELF HAS
BECOME DERANGED --

**FALL
BACK! FALL
BACK!**

DISPATCH,
WHERE'S THAT
SHOCKIN'
BACKUP?!

-- AND THE
SKY DRAWS
NIGHTMARES.

THE OFFICE OF D/MONIX
C.E.O. DYSON KELLERMAN.

IT'S ALL
FAR WORSE
THAN I DARED
IMAGINE.

CHEMICAL
OR BIOLOGICAL
AGENTS WOULD
EXPLAIN THE
AIRBORNE
CONTAGION --

-- BUT
NOT THE SUDDEN
APPEARANCE OF
THOSE GROTESQUE
MONSTROSITIES.

NANO-
TECHNOLOGICAL?
SOME DOOMSDAY
SCENARIO OF HEROD'S,
UNSCATHED
BY DOOM'S
RETRIBUTION?

IMPOSSIBLE
TO SAY.



THE ONLY
CERTAINTY WE'VE
GOT AT THIS POINT
IS ITS GEOMETRICAL
RATE OF
EXPANSION.

TRANSVERSE
CITY IS NEARLY
CONSUMED. BY
MORNING,
NEO-CHICAGO
WILL FALL AS
WELL.



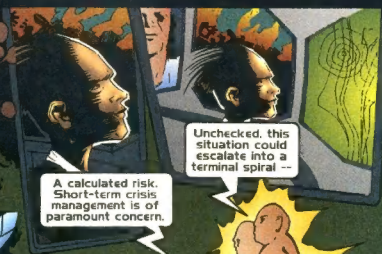


AND
AFTER THAT,
ALL OF HUMAN
CIVILIZATION.

THE GHOSTWORKS.

Inadvisable!

Kellerman is the
embodiment of
counterproductive
methodology!



A calculated risk.
Short-term crisis
management is of
paramount concern.

Unchecked, this
situation could
escalate into a
terminal spiral --



-- and we remain
dependent on the
human technological
infrastructure for
our own survival.



With the
Ghost Rider's
disappearance,
Kellerman has
become our
only remaining
option.

We shall
proceed.

THE SECRET
HEADQUARTERS
OF DOCTOR NEON.

WHAT'RE
YOU READ-
ONLY?

QUIT
KLUDGING
AROUND
AND BOOT
IT!

LOOK,
I'M WORKING
AS FAST AS
I CAN
OKAY?

**TIKA
TAK
TIK
TAK**

I MEAN,
HIS WHOLE
SYSTEM'S
CRASHED, IT'S
TOTALLY
SKELTERED.

I BARELY
MANAGED
TO UNDELETE
HIS FAT.*

**CHIK
TA
KAKLIK
TIK**

FILE ALLOCATION
TABLE -- Joey.

JUST
SHUT UP
AND FIX
HIM.

I NEED
HIM UP AND
RUNNING --

-- SO I
CAN KILL
HIM.

YEAH?
IF YOU'RE SO
JAGGED, WHY'NT
YOU DO THE
DEBUGGING?

I'M
SAVING MY
JUICE FOR
WRECKING
HIM UP.



I BEEN
WAITING
A LONG TIME
FOR THIS, AND
I WANNA
ENJOY IT.

YEAH,
YEAH, SURE,
SURE.

I THINK
YOU'RE JUST
A LOT BETTER AT
CRASHING THINGS
THAN YOU ARE
AT PUTTING
'EM BACK
TOGETHER.

ALL
RIGHT, I
THINK WE'RE
READY TO
ROCK.

LOADING...
NOW.

BACK
SPACE

EXECUTE

C> LOADING BIOS FIRM
LAUNCHING APPLICATION
"ZERO COCHRANE"

...HUH?
*SEARCHING
DIRECTORY*
I... DEAD? NO.
*UNRECOVERABLE
ERROR* BUT?



446 **SHREE** 447

-- ALL THE
WAY BACK
FROM --

-- THE
BIZ SUITS
WHO RUN THIS
TOWN ARE ALL
GONNA --

-- WRECK
ME? WRECK --

-- THE
RIGHT TO
SLAUGHTER
PEOPLE FOR --

-- THE
LAW? NOT
A SHOCKIN'
CHANCE!

I'LL
KILL
YOU!

HOLY
GLITCH!

HE'S
OUT OF
CONTROL!

THRVR

INFURIATING.
TO BE SO CLOSE,
AND YET SO
HELPLESS.

THE MIND-
CONTROL CHIP
DOOM USED ON ME
HAS TURNED OUT TO
BE FIERCELY SIMPLE,
EASILY MASS-
PRODUCED --

IT COULD
SOLVE EVERYTHING,
IF ONLY THERE
WERE TIME ENO--

ACHTUNG,
HERR
KELLERMAN!

MMN?

WE ARE
AWARE OF YOUR
DIFFICULTIES, AND
WISH TO BE OF...
ASSISTANCE.

"WE?"
WHO ARE
YOU?

HOW
DID YOU
PENETRATE
MY SECURITY
SYSTEMS?

MY FELLOW
AMERICAN...
YOU MAY CALL US
THE GHOSTWORKS.
AND OUR
METHODS ARE
UNIMPORTANT.

WE CAN
PROVIDE YOU
WITH THE MEANS
TO BROADCAST THE
EFFECTS OF DOOM'S
CHIP, AND BRING THE
PRESENT CRISIS
TO A HALT.

AND
WHAT DO
YOU WANT IN
RETURN?

NOTHING
MORE THAN
WHAT YOU
DESIRE,
COMRADE.
AN END TO
CHAOS.

A NEW
WORLD
ORDER.

WELL,
THEN.

BY ALL
MEANS, LET
US TALK
BUSINESS...

JAM
YOUR
BIZ!

I'M
PART OF
THE PROBLEM
NOW --

-- AND
I DON'T
TAKE
ORDERS.

GOTTA
SHUT 'IM
DOWN!

THRRAACCH

CLAKAKTAKCHITAK

TWO
WORDS.
FIDO --

-- PLAY
DEA --



I TOLD
YOU TO DOUBLE-
CHECK THE MOTOR
CONTROL
ENABLER.

WE
WANT HIM
AWAKE AND
UP, BUT NOT
MOBILE.
VID?

I
KNOW
THAT,
ALREADY.

-WHEW-

THAT
WAS
CLOSE.

I'M
THE ONE
WHO ALMOST
JUST GOT
KILLED!

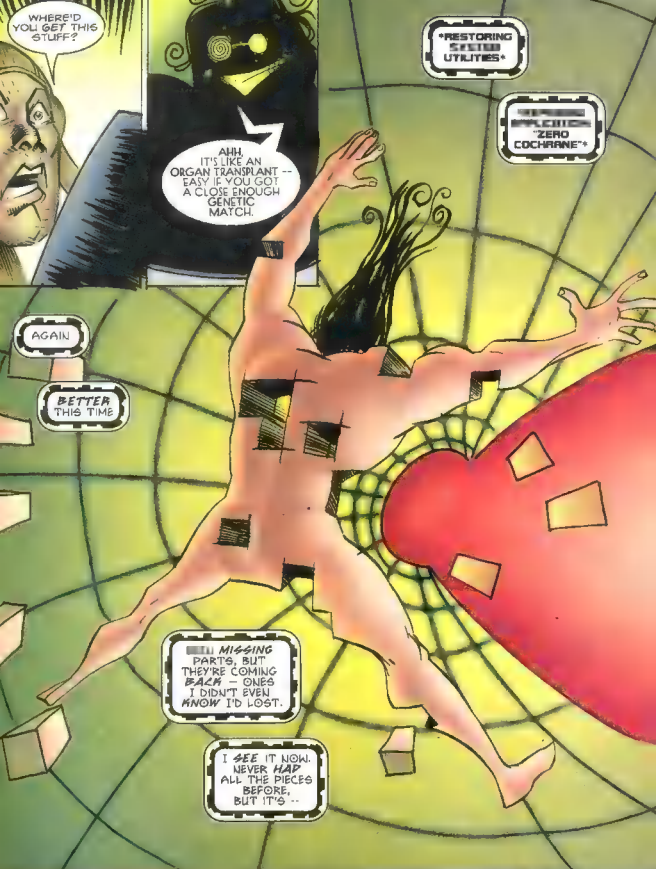
TROUBLE
IS, HE'S
GOT MASSIVE
FRAGMENTA-
TION.

GOT
HUGE CHUNKS OF
HIS PERSONALITY
EMULATION SOFTWARE
MISSING, WRITING
PATCHES FOR
IT COULD TAKE
FOREVER.

I
CAN FIX
THAT.

HANG
ON A SEC
I'LL PORT SOME
FILES OVER
TO YOU.

SHOULDN'T
TAKE MORE
THAN A RIB
OR TWO...



WHERE'D YOU GET THIS STUFF?

RESTORING SPEED UTILITIES

REPAIRING APPLICATIONS
ZERO COCHRANE

AHH, IT'S LIKE AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT -- EASY IF YOU GOT A CLOSE ENOUGH GENETIC MATCH.

AGAIN

BETTER THIS TIME

MISSING PARTS, BUT THEY'RE COMING BACK -- ONES I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I'D LOST.

I SEE IT NOW. NEVER HAD ALL THE PIECES BEFORE, BUT IT'S --



-- FINALLY COMING TOGETHER...

THIS
OLD
CORPSE

NOW,
SELECTING
THE RIGHT
EMBALMING
FLUID DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE
COMPLI-
CATED.

JUST BUY
WHATEVER'S
CHEAPEST.

REMEMBER
THE FIRST RULE
OF HOME BURIAL --
"THEY'RE DEAD,"
THEY WON'T
COMPLAIN."

FSZIP

WE INTERRUPT
THIS PROGRAM
FOR THE FOLLOWING
EMERGENCY
BROADCAST --

-- BROUGHT
TO YOU BY
D/MONIX!

I'LL
GET RIGHT
TO THE
POINT.

THERE IS
A SICKNESS
AT LARGE IN
TRANSVERSE
CITY.

AS YOU
CAN SEE FROM
THIS LIVE VIDEO,
CHAOS IS RUNNING
RAMPANT --

-- THREATENING
TO REDUCE US TO
A STATE OF TOTAL
BARBARISM.

HERE AT
D/MONIX, WE'VE
DEVELOPED A CURE
FOR WHAT AILS
THIS CITY --

-- BUT
WE NEED
YOUR HELP
TO MAKE IT
WORK.

TURN
ON EVERY
AUDIO AND/OR
VIDEO RECEIVER
WITHIN REACH --

-- AND
ADJUST THE
VOLUME TO
MAXIMUM.

-- TUNE
THEM TO THIS
CHANNEL --

UUUUUUHHHHHHMMMMUUUUUUARRRR

IT BEGINS WITH A LOW
HUM, AND QUICKLY
ASCENDS IN PITCH,
CLIMBING BEYOND
THE RANGE OF
HUMAN HEARING --

-- BUT NOT
HUMAN
PERCEPTION.

ER
D

I
DON'T
HEA--

--UH--

HEY,
WHAZZAT
SOUND?

IT MIGHT BE
FELT AS A FAINT
VIBRATION,
OR A MOMENT
OF VERTIGO --

THERE
WILL BE
ORDER IN
THIS
CITY.

-- WERE IT NOT FOR
THE FACT THAT THOSE
AFFECTED BY IT ARE
LEFT FEELING NOTHING
BEYOND A COMPULSION
FOR OBEDIENCE.

UH-
HUH,

GOT
IT.

YAH.



-- REMOTE
CONTROL ELECTRONIC
PUNISHMENT --
SEVERITY NOTHING
LESS THAN OUTRIGHT
TORTURE --

AS THE CITY
FALLS UNDER
KELLERMAN'S
TECHNOLOGICAL
SPELL --

-- KIDS
LOVE IT!
MOMS LOVE
IT TOO!



-- MINDS BY THE MILLIONS EMPTY OF ALL THOUGHT --

SKAN
AHE
F
EECHIK!

THE VOICES IN THEIR HEADS SUDDENLY STRUCK MUTE.



LOOK!



IT'S...IT'S SHRINKING!

--KAFF
KAFF--
EITHER THAT WALLPAPER GOES --

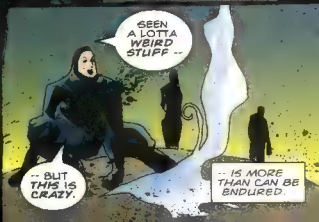
AND FOR THE SPAWN OF THAT PSYCHIC CACOPHONY, THE SILENCE --



HOLY GLITCH.

-- OR I DO.

SPLUTCH



SEEN A LOTTA WEIRD STUFF --

-- BUT THIS IS CRAZY.

-- IS MORE THAN CAN BE ENDURED.



SOME, BY
GENETIC LUCK,
PROVE IMMUNE
TO KELLERMAN'S
SIGNAL.

THE FIRST THING
THOSE FEW NOTICE
IS HOW UNUSUALLY
QUIET THE CITY'S
BECOME.





UH-HUH

NO PROBLEM

UNDER-
STOOD

SURE
THING

YEAHHH

STANDIN'
BY

ANYT'ING
YA SAY

RIGHT-O
THEN

SPLENDID.

WE HAVE ONE
CRISIS, BUT TO
AVOID OTHERS WE
SHALL HAVE TO
MAKE SUBSTANTIAL
CHANGES IN THE
DAYS TO COME.

HARD
CHOICES WILL
BE CALLED FOR.
SACRIFICES
WILL HAVE TO
BE MADE.

FORTUNATELY --

-- I KNOW
I CAN COUNT
ON YOUR
COOPERATION.



HE'S
ALMOST
FINISHED.
NOW
WHAT?

NOW
I'M GONNA
GET INSIDE
HIS HEAD.

I
THOUGHT
YOU SAID
YOU **ALREADY**
KNEW 'ZACTLY
HOW HE
THINKS.

YOU
BITHEAD.

I
MEAN
THROUGH
HIS SERIAL
PORT.



IT ALL FITS
TOGETHER
PERFECTLY.

SHOULDA
CRUNCHED
THOSE
NUMBERS
A LONG --

HE'S
COMING.



FIGURED
IT WAS
YOU.

DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW
I HAD A
BETA.



"BETA?"
GET REAL,
FLAMEJOB.
I'M NOT THE
2.0 AROUND
HERE.

I'M
THE SOURCE
CODE -- THE
ORIGINAL ZERO
COCHRANE.

YOU'RE THE
BOOTLEG --

-- AND
YOU'RE
HISTORY!

Next:
**END OF THE
ROAD**

MACHINE LANGUAGE

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OUT OF MY HEAD

Thanks to the folks at **AXCESS** magazine for their *major* article on Len Kaminski and his work on this title. It surprised me for two reasons. 1) Len photographed (Aw, it's a joke, Len. Don't I take abuse from your pals on Compuserve?), and 2) It comes too late, however, to save this magazine, the last issue of which is next month.

I guess the **AXCESS** piece sort of guarantees Len's status as the funnies' cult-following, thumb-in-the-eye-of-the-mainstream, too-fast-to-live-too-young-to-die-peacefully, the-grownups-just-don't-understand-us, I'm-gonna-tear-your-playhouse-down writer who, when it comes to computers, cars, 'copters, and comic books, realizes that any crash you can walk away from is a good one (At least, Super Chicken on the old *George of the Jungle* series used to say that. In times like these, philosophy is where you find it).

Here we go again, plugging all our fans on America Online. Len Kaminski recently called for last requests as **GHOST RIDER 2099** heads for its last issue with #25. Here's what the folks out there in C-Space had to say...

Len,

I'd just like to finally know who and what that little human-shaped entity is that's been spying on the Ghostworks. Also, I'd like to see a meeting between the Ghostworks and Paloma. Or, have the Ghostworks forsake Ghost Rider, only to be rescued in turn by Paloma, who is needing a true cyberbeing to be in love with since Wire killed himself. Since he's given up on being human, he could truly become one with the cyberverse. Paloma could also have gotten used to having someone she loved, Wire having taught her what being loved and loving is like. Ghosty might make a good companion for her, permanently part of the cyberscheme of things. Also, it would make a nice finishing touch for him, instead of some weak ending, a la *Ravage's* book and characters. This way, he's still in the 2099verse somewhere: he's just in a

changed and different form; he's moved on to bigger and better things. When you consider that the cyberspace of 2099 is vastly different depending upon which book is showing it (look at the different ways shown with Spidey, Doom, and GR), all of cyberspace can truly be seen as almost "other dimensions" similar to how Dr. Strange used to show different ones. It could make sense that each niche of C-Space have its own local ruling "deities", like the Ghostworks and Paloma. Having Ghosty getting his powers upped into a C-Space "deity" while losing his physical world form could be an interesting finish to it all.

WindozAndy@aol.com

Len,

I don't know how dumb this sounds, but maybe a strange tie-in to the present-day Ghost Rider? I'm not sure what, just a passing nod to some connection. I think it would be a neat thing to speculate and buzz about. Unlike seemingly most 2099 fans, I prefer having the future counterparts to the twentieth century heroes. It's just so much more fun seeing the legacy of the heroes we grew up with. And using the familiar names gives us a little feeling of familiarity in the cold, dark future that is represented as 2099. I know that Dan Ketch isn't doing so hot (ugh) himself, but I just love little tie-ins!

Peter JSA@aol.com

Len,

I would very much like to see GR 2099 run into some REAL otherworldly power, but I doubt you have that much room to work with.

Also kinda like the idea of GR 2099 dumping into the net again. Y'know, ditch the body where it will, supposedly, never be found and upload into C-space until WHENEVER.

Abby: Status of the Continuity?

Len: Would you write DOOM 2099 asked?

Chip: Just because it's "last call" doesn't mean you can close the bar. We'll need a drink before this is done.

Grendel: Don't mind me, I'm talking to myself again.....

GmailChast@aol.com

Len,

"Len: Is there any chance you could include some of the screen games of your favorite AOL users in GR #25?

Maybe in a cute c-space scene? Heh heh..."

What a good idea. Maybe GR could be surfing through C-Space and simply pass by some archetypes that are modeled after AOL people.

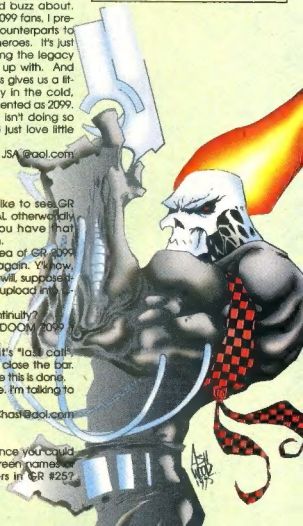
It's good to give a little back.

SciDog@aol.com

Lotsa fun suggestions from all you guys! We'll just have to wait a month and see what Len comes up with and maybe you'll recognize some of the stuff when **GHOST RIDER 2099** hits the stands for the last time in thirty days! Be there, won'tcha?

NEXT ISSUE

Smash finish.



FREQUENTLY QUESTIONED ANSWERS

1. NO, WE'RE NOT KILLIN' EM. If and when another 2099 character loses his or her book, he or she will not die! Got it? Loss of title does not necessarily mean loss of life! So there!

2. YOU'RE NOT GONNA FIND LUNA. That is, among the **X-Men 2099 Action Figures**. Luna's appearance has been postponed till next year. So you can tell your pals to call the chase off for the time being! As for the other 2099 characters in the series you've been petting us for, most notably Spidey and Doom...hey, those guys at Toy Biz have an address, too, ya know!

3. DOOM'S GOING BACK. Back in time, that is! "**Rage Against Time**," our latest series-within-a-series, starts this month! In this literally historic issue, you'll be treated to cameos by Daredevil and Doctor Strange, and get a little insight on our series new scribe, **Tom Peyer**, as to the beginnings of the **X-NATION'S** Wild Boy known as Dorian! If you read **GENERATION 2099**, we'll bet you didn't realize ol' Dorian was buds with the Lord of Slaughter, didja?

4. YES, IT'S A HIT! **X-NATION 2099 #1** was a runaway success, and for that we thank you! The second issue hits the racks this month, "Kicking and Screaming!" No, that's not the condition it shows up in, it's the title! If you haven't feasted your eyes on the art by **Humberto Ramos**, what are you waiting for? Self-denial and discipline can be important traits, but not when it comes to comic books!

5. 'CAUSE I'M BORED, THAT'S WHY! Oh, you wanted to know more about what you read in **MARVEL VISION**...that there's this plan to boost everything ahead eighteen months to the year 2101! Well, many of you have asked about when we'd get around to changing the titles of the books to 2100. (Actually more of you have asked when we'd get around to changing the titles to "the next year, 3000," which says something sad about the state of education in these United States. But why throw stones?) So we're going one better...one whole calendar year better! What'll happen to the X-Men? The formation of Halo City? The FF? Spidey? High level decisions are being made now! (Not that we're high-level; we were just thinking of writing some of this in the Empire State Building, and...) Oh, and in case you didn't know, Karl Kesel, who writes our incredible **FANTASTIC FOUR 2099** book, suggested the "year." Got a nice ring to it, eh?

6. MAY. That's the current release month for the John Moore/Greg Tim Hildebrandt bookshelf edition of **X-MEN 2099**, "Oasis." It'll be worth every minute of the wait!

7. JUNE. Actually, that refers to June Rosenberg. Gee, I was just mad for her all through high school.

8. JULY. That's the expiration date on the milk in this coffee, meaning it's time to go.

2099 Bitmapped